Introduction to PHP for Web Development: Hands-On - 2 Days

Course 519 Overview

You Will Learn How To

- Write effective, efficient PHP scripts
- Embed PHP scripts in HTML pages to create dynamic web pages
- Manipulate data from web page forms
- Track users as they navigate your site with cookies and other PHP features
- Structure PHP code using user-defined functions and external libraries
- Develop database-enabled web applications using MySQL

Who Should Attend

Those creating dynamic, database-driven websites. Basic experience with HTML is assumed. Programming or PHP experience is helpful but not required.

Hands-On Exercises Activities

In this course, you develop PHP scripts to perform a variety of tasks, culminating in the development of a full database-driven web page. Exercises include:

- Accessing command line arguments from PHP scripts
- Generating web pages dynamically using PHP
- Retrieving and manipulating form data
- Personalizing website content using cookies
- Tracking user navigation on your website
- Integrating database content to generate dynamic web pages
- Building modular scripts to enable code reusability

Learning Tree International

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Course 519 Outline

Programming with PHP

Introduction to PHP

- Origins of PHP in the open source community
- Availability across multiple platforms
- Installing as a module for Apache Web Server and Microsoft Internet Information Server
- Running as a CGI engine for other web servers

PHP language building blocks

- Comparing PHP with other web scripting languages
- Investigating PHP data types
- Integers
- Floating point values
- Strings
- Booleans

Writing PHP scripts

- Storing values in scalar variables
- Employing ordinary and associative arrays
- Writing conditional expressions
- Implementing loops such as **while**, **for** and **foreach**
- Building complete scripts incorporating loops and conditional expressions

Writing Web Pages with PHP

Interacting with the server

- Outlining web protocols
- Embedding PHP code into HTML pages
- Employing shortcuts to display single PHP values
- Determining how data is sent from forms to PHP scripts
- Creating dynamically generated hyperlinks to call PHP scripts

Manipulating user input

- Presenting the user with input options via different HTML form elements
- Retrieving form data with **$_POST** and **$_GET** arrays
- Validating retrieved data
- Strategies for handling invalid input
- Storing state information using cookies

Applying Advanced Scripting Techniques

Exploiting the built-in functionality of PHP

- Formatting date and time information
- Manipulating string data
- Reading and writing data using file I/O functions
- Investigating other built-in features

Structuring PHP code

- Writing user-defined functions to structure your code
- Passing arguments and default values to functions
- Returning data from functions
- Accessing global variables
- Building code libraries for reusability
- Incorporating external PHP scripts with **require** and **require_once**

Building Complete Web Applications

Managing errors

- Investigating the HTTP header
- Suppressing on-screen error messages on production servers
- Configuring the **php.ini** file to control error messages

Handling problematic situations

- Troubleshooting problems when manipulating data
- Redirecting the browser to other pages
- Modifying the PHP configuration file to suit your needs
- Developing debugging strategies

Establishing database connectivity

- Creating and managing database connections
- Sending queries to the database server employing the most efficient methods
- Retrieving query results as associative arrays
- Looping through databases
- Displaying returned data on web pages
- Avoiding potential problems by managing quotes and backslashes in data
- Closing the database connection